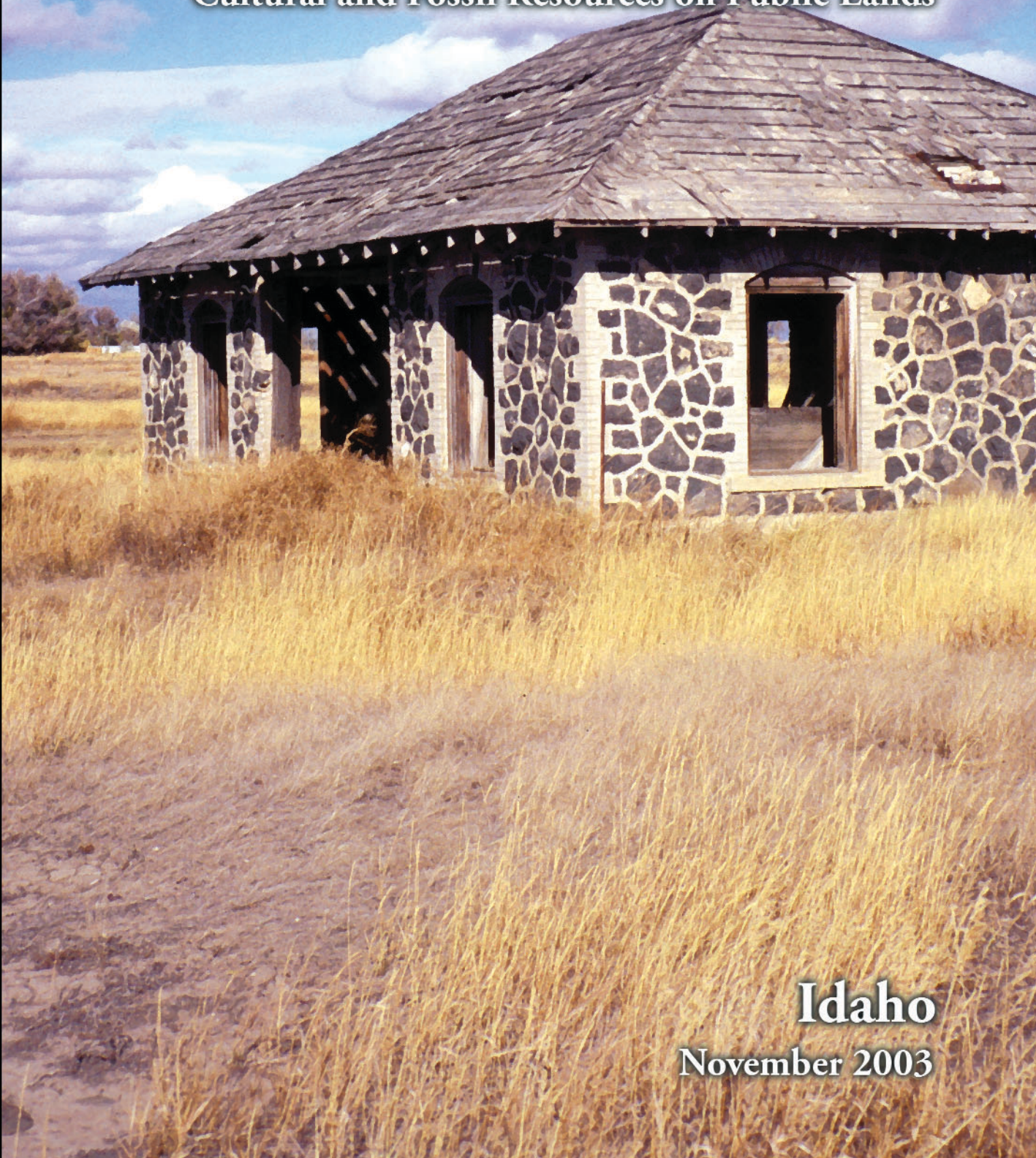




U.S. Department of the Interior

BLM

America's Priceless Heritage: Cultural and Fossil Resources on Public Lands



Idaho

November 2003

America's Priceless Heritage:

Cultural and Fossil Resources on Public Lands



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Bureau of Land Management
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Cover photo: The Richfield Pump House was constructed in 1909 by the Idaho Irrigation Company using native basalt lava rock. It housed a large water pump that provided water from the Little Wood River to the developing town of Richfield. In an area with scarce wood supplies, early residents learned to use basalt rock from extensive lava flows in the Snake River Plain for construction. The Richfield Pump House is now included within a National Historic District of barns, houses, and other buildings; however, it is the only example of such construction on public lands within the Historic District.

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BLM's Cultural Heritage
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Preface:

An Invitation to the Reader

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing 261 million acres of public land—about one-eighth of the United States. Most of these lands are in the Western United States, including Alaska, and they include extensive grasslands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts. BLM also manages about 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources, as well as numerous other resources, such as timber, forage, wild horse and burro populations, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites.

BLM administers the public lands within the framework of numerous laws, the most comprehensive of which is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). FLPMA directs BLM to follow the principle of “multiple use,” which means managing the public lands and their various resource values “so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people.” This multiple use mission requires BLM to address quality of life issues, including providing clean air and water; providing recreational opportunities; protecting wildlife; and safeguarding cultural and fossil resources; as well as providing for a sound economy through the production of energy, food, and fiber and by sustaining local communities and their heritage.

Given the scope of its multiple use mission, BLM affects more Americans on a daily basis than any other land management agency. The Bureau constantly faces the challenge of ensuring a balance of land uses among perspectives that are occasionally, if not often, competing. BLM recognizes that people who live near the public lands have the most direct connection and knowledge of them, as well as a commitment to their stewardship. At the same time, the Bureau maintains a national focus because these lands belong to all Americans, whose appreciation of them continues to increase.

BLM’s central challenge is to *balance the demands of growth and the imperative for conservation*. America is entering into a new era of conservation to achieve a healthier environment and a more secure economy—what Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton





calls the “new environmentalism.” Secretary Norton sums this new environmentalism up in a visionary approach she calls the “four Cs”—using communication, cooperation, and consultation, all in the service of conservation. At the heart of the four Cs is the Secretary’s belief that for conservation to be successful, BLM must involve the people who live on, work on, and love the land.

The Bureau’s ability to partner with public land users; local residents; nonprofit groups; universities; “friends of” organizations; and State, local, and tribal governments fosters a wide and diverse support network. This network is essential not only because the agency has limited staff and budget resources, but because there is a wide variety of stakeholders who are concerned about public land management. The Bureau has been working cooperatively with partners and volunteers for decades and that work has yielded outstanding results towards attaining common goals and values.

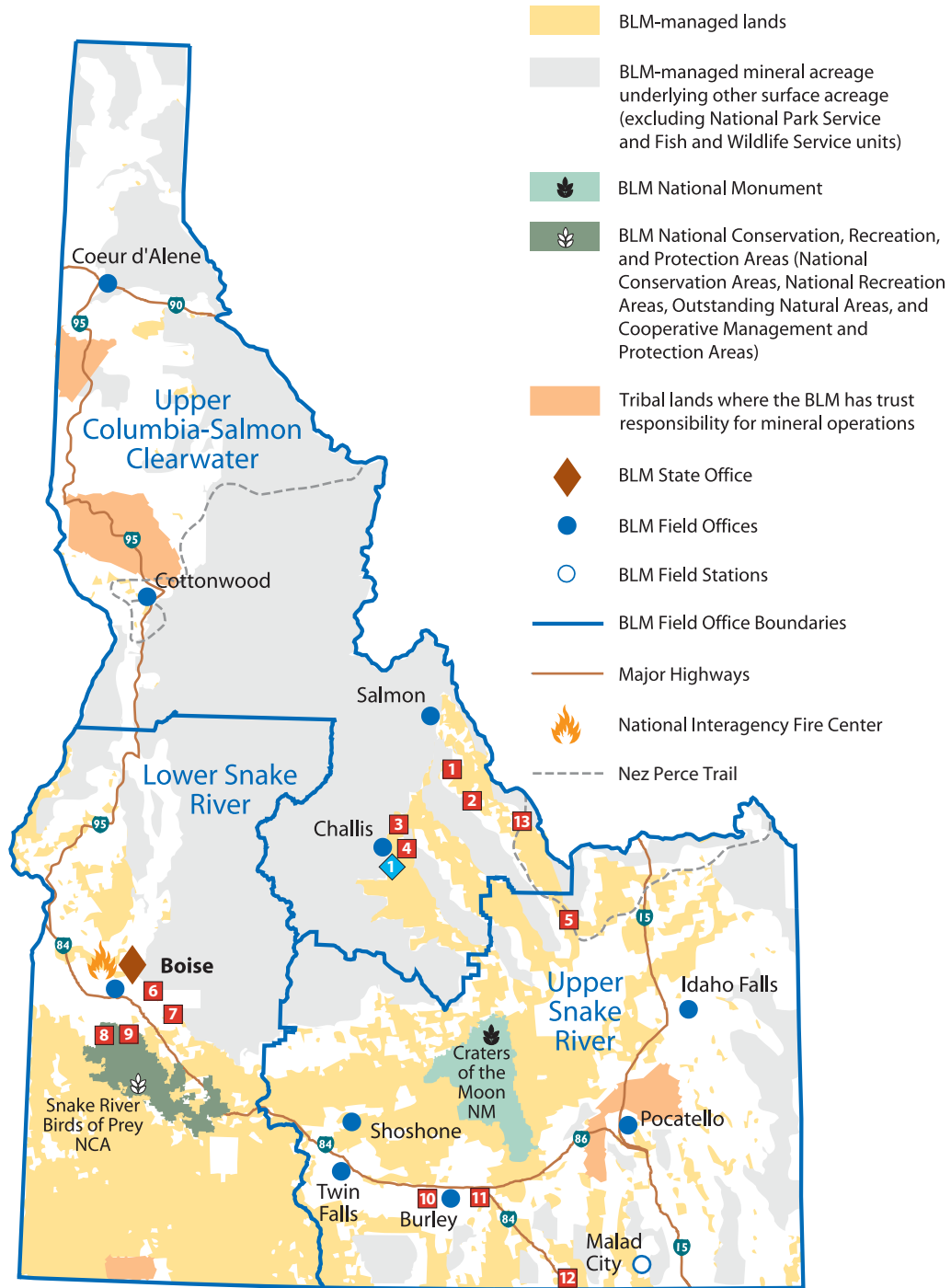
Secretary Norton’s approach to conservation is especially relevant to the management of cultural and fossil resources on public lands. These resources are a constant source of fascination for visitors. People look to these resources for recreational opportunities...for fulfilling their curiosity about the recent and remote past...for contemplating their origins...for preserving and continuing their cultures...for finding peace and quiet. The Secretary’s approach to managing these resources was furthered on March 3, 2003, when President Bush signed a new Executive Order, which directs Federal agencies to advance the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of historic properties, particularly by seeking public-private partnerships to promote the use of such properties as a stimulus to local economic development. The Executive Order is an important component in a new White House initiative called *Preserve America*, which was announced on March 3, 2003 by First Lady Laura Bush. The *Preserve America* program will serve as a focal point for the support of the preservation, use, and enjoyment of America’s historic places.

The Bureau is proud of its mission and understands why it is crucial to the Nation’s future. The Bureau’s vision is to live up to this ambitious mission and thereby meet the needs of the lands and our people. In order to achieve this goal, the Bureau must seek new ways of managing that include innovative partnerships and, especially, a community-based focus that

involves citizen stakeholders and governmental partners who care about the public lands and the cultural and fossil resources found on them. This document is an invitation to you—the public BLM serves—to continue your ongoing dialogue with us about the health and future of the Nation’s cultural and natural legacy. Tell us what is important to you, what you care most about, what you want saved, and how BLM can work collaboratively to preserve our priceless legacy.

This document is an invitation
to you...to continue your
ongoing dialogue with us
about the health and future
of the Nation’s cultural
and natural legacy.





Interpreted Cultural Sites

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Clark's Campsite | 6 Boise City/Oregon Trail | 11 Raft River Oregon Trail Ruts |
| 2 Lewis and Clark Backcountry Byway | 7 Bonneville Point Oregon Trail | 12 California Trail/Boise Kelton Road |
| 3 Challis Bison Jump | 8 Celebration Park Petroglyphs | 13 Nez Perce Trail |
| 4 Bayhorse Historic Townsite Interpretive Wayside | 9 Halverson Lakes and Bar Placer Mining Community | |
| 5 Birch Creek Valley Prehistory | 10 Milner Site/Oregon Trail | |

Interpreted Paleo Sites

- 1 Malm Gulch ACEC



IDAHO

Statistical Overview

Acres of public land	11.9 million acres
Acres inventoried for cultural properties (FY 2002)	43,469 acres
Acres inventoried for cultural resources (to date)	1,861,954 acres
Cultural properties recorded (FY 2002)	549 properties
Cultural properties recorded (to date)	13,304 properties
Cultural Resource Use Permits in effect (FY 2002)	35 permits
National Register of Historic Places listings (to date)	21 listings
National Register of Historic Places contributing properties	823 properties
Section 106 class III undertakings (FY 2002)	332 undertakings
Section 106 data recovery, projects (FY 2002)	11 projects
Section 106 data recovery, properties (FY 2002)	17 properties
Interpreted places	14 places

Cultural Resources

1. Program Summary

In Idaho, BLM manages archaeological and historical sites that span human occupation from about 12,000 years ago to the present. Prehistoric sites managed by BLM in Idaho include Paleo-Indian sites, Archaic and late prehistoric hunting and fishing camps, village sites, rock art, cemeteries, and game drive sites. Historic sites include mining districts, ghost towns, railroad grades, homesteads, historic trails (including significant portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Oregon Trail). Twenty-one

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This tram tower from the early 1900s is part of an aerial tram system in the White Knob Mining District in southeast Idaho. The tram was used to move ore over 4 miles from the Empire Mine to the railroad.



Over the last
12,000 years,
various American
Indian peoples
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gathered
resources in the
richly diverse
environments...
of the State.



Centuries-old rock art in southeast Idaho is being restored through a BLM challenge cost-share project.



individual properties and districts on BLM lands are listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Idaho. Nearly 1,862,000 acres of BLM lands in Idaho have been inventoried for cultural resources to date, and over 13,000 properties have been recorded.

Fourteen cultural properties have been interpreted and developed for public visitation. Among these sites are the Lewis and Clark Trail and Clark's Campsite, the Oregon and California Trails, several sites associated with early human occupation of the Birch Creek Valley, the Challis Bison Jump, and several sites associated with Idaho's mining history.

2. State Cultural History

Over the last 12,000 years, various American Indian peoples hunted and gathered resources in the richly diverse environments found within the present boundaries of the State. These peoples primarily focused on hunting large game animals until approximately 6000 B.C., when a gradually warming climate resulted in a more diverse subsistence base.

Between approximately 6000 and 1000 B.C., inhabitants followed wide-ranging, hunting and gathering subsistence practices based on the annual occurrence of plant, fish, and animal concentrations that were present in different areas of the State. After 1000–2000 B.C., the climate became cooler and was much the same as it is today. While subsistence patterns basically stayed the same, the introduction of the bow and arrow after 1000 B.C. and the introduction of the horse in the 18th century A.D. represent significant changes during the late prehistoric period in Idaho.

The historic period in Idaho begins with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804, followed by the exploration and discoveries of the fur trade era, emigration and the founding of early Indian missions, and the earliest Euro-American settlements.

Settlement and territorial development of Idaho occurred between 1855–1890 with the initial Mormon settlements in eastern Idaho, followed by the gold rush, the establishment of Idaho as a Territory, the development of the mining industry, and the growth of agriculture. These activities led to conflicts with American Indians, treaties, and the establishment of reservations. Then in 1890, Idaho became a State.

After 1890, Idaho saw continued growth in the mining and timber industries, homesteading and agricultural developments,

the beginning of large-scale irrigation networks, and development in the Snake River Plain region. After 1904, the impact of the Carey Act, Reclamation Act, and other irrigation and reclamation efforts resulted in large-scale irrigation projects and caused a boom in agriculture and population growth. Also during this time, the national forest system and timber industry developed, recreation increased, and major flood control and hydropower projects were undertaken.

3. Cultural Resources At Risk

In general, sites on BLM lands in Idaho are being lost to surface collecting, vandalism, and looting in areas that are well-known for rich cultural deposits. Such areas include major river corridors, caves and rock shelters, well-known historic sites such as ghost towns and mining districts, and large natural material sources and quarries. Other factors affecting the loss of cultural resources in the State include off-highway vehicle use in areas containing numerous fragile sites, expanding recreation use in remote areas, and natural deterioration or erosion of significant structures and archaeological sites. Major sites that are being lost on BLM lands in Idaho include:

- Many rock shelter and cave sites in the State that can provide needed information on the sequence of human occupation in Idaho and subsistence patterns are being destroyed by illegal excavation and theft.
- Rock art sites that hold special significance to local tribes are being vandalized and looted.
- Significant historic structures important to local communities and groups are falling down due to natural deterioration and vandalism.
- Segments of National Historic Trails and historic travel routes throughout the State are being impacted by off-highway vehicle use.

4. Major Accomplishments

- Completed interpretive projects including a Nez Perce Trail auto route brochure, interpretive tour of Birch Creek valley, and interpretation of the Oregon and California Trails.
- Completed the inventory and recording of various archaeological resources, including rock art in the Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area; architectural recording



This historic railroad trestle in the White Knob Mining District is being restored as part of a recreation trail.

Other factors affecting the loss of cultural resources in the State include off-highway vehicle use... and natural deterioration or erosion of significant structures...





Historic cabins like this one dot the landscape of Idaho's public lands, providing us with an important reminder of the determination and perseverance of early settlers.

Many historical societies throughout the State have interests in protecting and interpreting the history of Idaho.



of rare historic mill sites; archaeological inventory of portions of the Lewis and Clark Trail; inventory of the Birch Creek Springs area; global positioning system recording of historic trails and railroads in southern Idaho; and detailed study of obsidian sources and obsidian artifacts in southeastern Idaho.

- Completed site preservation activities, including protection of Native American values associated with the St. Joe Divide area, fencing of the Sandpoint Paleontology and Cultural Area of Critical Environmental Concern, acquisition of Oregon Trail sites, and stabilization of two significant historic homestead cabins.
- Developed a Web page for the cultural resource program.
- Developed a data-sharing agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office.
- Conducted research studies, including ground-penetrating radar surveys in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and pottery analyses of shards from previously recorded sites.
- Completed collections inventories for three sites in the Western Idaho Repository.
- Restored and interpreted the White Knob Historic Mining District mine buildings, railroad trestle, and aerial train towers in partnership with local communities and historical societies.

5. Ethnic, Tribal, and Other Groups to Whom BLM Cultural Resources Are Important

There are eight federally recognized Indian tribes that claim rights to traditional lands in Idaho (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Northwest Band of Shoshoni Nation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and Kalispel Tribe of Indians).

Prehistoric and historic sites managed by the BLM that are associated with American Indian heritage are of special interest to the tribes. On-the-ground protection and management of these sites is one of the main consultation issues addressed with the tribes.

Many historical societies throughout the State have interests in protecting and interpreting the history of Idaho. Topics important to these groups including mining, fur trading era

and exploration, homesteading, early agriculture and ranching, wagon roads, and prehistoric sites.

6. Existing Partnerships

- Idaho State University for research projects, University of Alberta for a predictive model for buried sites along the Salmon River, University of Alaska for faunal analysis, College of Southern Idaho for elementary school teaching kits, and Boise State University for collections management, all through challenge cost-share agreements.
- The Island Park Historical Society for an interpretive brochure, Archaeographics for archaeological inventory and interpretation, and the State of Idaho Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center for interpretive signs and displays, all as challenge cost-share projects.
- The University of Oregon and the Forest Service's Passport in Time program for volunteer and field school projects.
- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe for Chief Tendoy Cemetery and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes for consultation, site surveillance, and monitoring through partnerships and agreements.

7. Economic Benefits

For fiscal year 1999, BLM's Recreation Management Information System provides a conservative estimate of 51,360 visitor use days at cultural sites on BLM lands in Idaho. The value of these visits to the State's economy is estimated at \$1,604,000.

In fiscal year 1999, 233,312 visitor use days were recorded for environmental education events and 106,733 visitor use days were estimated for interpretive exhibits. About a third of these days can be attributed to the cultural resource program, with the economic value of these programs estimated to be about \$930,000.

The total annual economic benefit derived from cultural resources during fiscal year 1999 in Idaho was estimated at \$2,534,000.

Paleontological Resources

1. Program Summary

BLM administers five Paleontological Resource Use Permits in the State each year. Permittees from the University of Michigan, Idaho State Museum, Kansas State University, and others collect and

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BLM archaeologists discuss the agency's cooperative archaeological excavation project and site protection efforts in the Salmon River Canyon with a group of river rafters.



Eastern Idaho's Snake River Plain

was once
covered by
sediments
deposited in a
series of lakes
that waxed and
waned over the
past 5 million
years.



The McCulley Creek site features over 200 snail shells that date back 2,320 years. They were found in a small pit located along the edge of the eroding bank.



curate specimens primarily from the Snake River Plain. Idaho has one publicly interpreted fossil area at Malm Gulch Area of Critical Environmental Concern, where huge fossil sequoia trunks are preserved in volcanic ash. Within this Area of Critical Environmental Concern, 2,643 acres are designated as a Research Natural Area.

2. State Paleontological History

Eastern Idaho's Snake River Plain was once covered by sediments deposited in a series of lakes that waxed and waned over the past 5 million years. Fossils from zebralike horses, camels, mastodons, hyenalike dogs, saber-toothed cats, water birds such as swans and cormorants, tiny rodents, salamanders, frogs, and fish are plentiful in the sandy sediments. During the last Ice Age, now-extinct native horses, camels, mammoths, mastodons, giant sloths, and many smaller animals lived around the receding lakes. Their remains are found in caves that formed in air pockets in the great sheets of lava that poured out across the landscape during Late Pleistocene geophysical upheavals. Idaho has produced only a few fragmentary dinosaur specimens.

3. Paleontological Resources at Risk

The fossils of fish, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians have been collected on the Snake River Plain by some of America's great museums, but now this area is a favorite of unauthorized collectors. Illegal removal of vertebrate fossils is eroding this area's potential to answer important research questions. Fossils from the most recent chapters of geologic history are crucial to revealing how North America attained its present form and fauna.

4. Major Accomplishments

- Collected specimens at risk in Spider Cave.

5. Existing Partnerships

- Idaho State University for researching archaeological and paleontological sites and conserving and managing important collections of Ice Age animals from southeast Idaho.

6. Economic Benefits

Idaho's public lands contain culturally significant sites and other natural history attractions. Because of these attractions, it can be assumed that paleontologic resources contribute to the economic well-being of the State, but the extent of these contributions cannot easily be determined.



The Bureau of Land Management *Today*

Our Vision

To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

Our Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Our Values

To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference.

Our Priorities

To improve the health and productivity of the land to support the BLM multiple-use mission.

To cultivate community-based conservation, citizen-centered stewardship, and partnership through consultation, cooperation, and communication.

To respect, value, and support our employees, giving them resources and opportunities to succeed.

To pursue excellence in business practices, improve accountability to our stakeholders, and deliver better service to our customers.

